

IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 FEB 2006

Written Reply

To Examiner, Japan Patent Office

1. Number of International Application PCT/JP2004/011161

2. Applicant for Patent

Name	Sony Corporation
Mailing Address	7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-Chome, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, 141-0001 Japan
Nationality	Japan
Address	Japan

3. Agent

Name	Patent Attorney, YAMADA, Eiji
Mailing Address	Sawada, Miyata & Yamada Patent Office Ginza TK Bldg., 1-7, Shintomi 1-chome Chuo-ku Tokyo 1040041 Japan

4. Date of Notification 12.10.2004

5. Details of Written Reply

The applicant cannot accept the evaluation in Written Opinion by the International Searching Authority, which says there is no inventive step in all claims.

In the Written Opinion, Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2002-318999 is cited as a reference of a prior art related to a technique that executes wireless communication between RFID tags. The wireless communication scheme used in the prior art reference is associated with an electromagnetic induction type of RFID as described in paragraph [0004] of the Publication, "RFID

is a substance that a coil-shaped antenna and an IC chip are built-in a substrate in a form of card or tag".

On the other hand, the present invention uses a radio communication scheme which is a backscatter scheme for transmitting information by refracted waves of carrier waves, as described in claim 1, "the data supply source apparatus has an RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) tag function that transmits data by a back scatter scheme by absorbing or reflecting external radio waves in accordance with a bit string of the data through an on/off control of an antenna switch to make an antenna in a terminated-state or an open-state; and the data provided destination apparatus has a reader function that transmits radio waves in a predetermined frequency band and reads data of an RFID tag in accordance with reflected waves." Accordingly, the present invention is based on an operation principle totally different from that of the above-mentioned prior art reference.

Therefore, even those skilled in the art cannot easily come up with the idea of the present invention, on the basis of Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2002-318999.